

REMARKS

The Official Action dated September 1, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, claim 4 has been canceled and claims 1, 2, 3 and 5 have been amended in order to better define that which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 3 and 5 are presently pending in the instant application.

With reference paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 2 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Particularly, the Examiner states that it is unclear how many gaps are present in accordance with Applicants' claimed invention. Specifically, the Examiner notes that claim 2 specifies a plurality of gaps, however, claims 1 and 3 specify only one gap. In this regard, as can be seen from the foregoing amendments, each of claims 2 and 5 have been amended to properly coincide with independent claims 1 and 3 thereby reciting only a single gap. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that each of dependent claims 2 and 5 are now in proper formal condition for allowance.

Referring now to paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,467,801 issued to Preisler et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed in that the patent to Preisler et al. neither discloses or suggests that which is presently set forth by Applicants' claimed invention.

As can be seen from the foregoing amendments, each of independent claims 1 and 3 have been amended in order to more clearly define Applicants' claimed invention. Particularly, independent claim 1 recites a vehicle airbag door comprising the door section that is provided at a panel main body and is opened by the activation of an airbag device wherein the airbag door comprises a back up member provided on the bottom side of the

panel main body and the back up section is provided with a concave that is recessed away from the door section with a concave being adjacent to the hinge section. Similarly, independent claim 3 recites a vehicle airbag door comprising a door section that is provided at a panel main body and is opened by activation of an airbag device wherein the airbag further comprises a back up member provided on the bottom side of the panel main body wherein the back up section is provided with a concave that is recessed away from the door section with the concave being adjacent to the hinge section. Further, independent claim 3 has been amended to specifically recite that the hinge section comprises a first incurred portion in which one end of the first end curved portion is integrally connected to the back up section and a mid section of the first curved portion is curved so as to protrude toward the door section, a second curved portion in which one end of the second curved portion is integrally connected to the other end of the first curved portion, the other end of the second curved portion being integrally connected to the plate section and a midsection of the second curved portion being curved so as to protrude away from the door section, these features being similar to that of independent claim 1. Further, independent claim 3 goes on to recite that the hinge section includes ribs that are integrally formed with the hinge section at the bottom face of the first and second curved portions which are opposite to the door section and in the vicinities of both longitudinal ends of the first and second curved portions and across the first and second curved portions. With the concave referred to in each of independent claims 1 and 3, with reference to Figs. 4 and 9, when the door section (17) is opened, the protruded part (17A) does not interfere with a part of the panel main body (1) located outwardly of the door section (17). Furthermore, due to the protruded part (17A), the groove (15) can be formed opposite to the back-up section (27) and as a result, of the door section

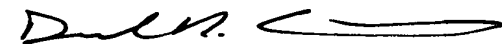
(17) can be increased. Clearly, these features are neither disclosed in nor remotely suggested by Preisler et al.

That is, while Preisler et al. may disclose a vehicle airbag door comprising a door section 10 that is provided at a panel main body 14 and is opened by the activation of an airbag device, Preisler et al. clearly fails to disclose or remotely suggest a back-up section which is provided with a concave that is recessed away from the door section with the concave being adjacent to the hinge section. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claimed invention as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 3 as well as 2 and 5 which depend therefrom clearly distinguishes over the teachings of Preisler, et al. and is in proper condition for allowance.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 1, 2, 3 and 5 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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